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At tripartite meeting on Berlin conducted by Murphy on January 13 (detailed report of meeting cabled separately) French position did not repeat not reflect firm attitude of General deGaulle as conveyed to Secretary on December 15 which RMBTEL 2508 reports General continues to hold (though we recognize Admiral Barjot may have over-interpreted deGaulle position on Berlin).

At tripartite meeting here Alphand said that while French favored position of firmness, further study various contingencies required and French not repeat not now prepared approve paragraph D as it stands. French proposed certain compromise language which not repeat not satisfactory.

In view critical importance this issue, desirability reaching agreed tripartite position if possible, and difficulties being encountered with British, Department would like Embassy's view as to most effective way in which deGaulle's reported determination to remain firm on Berlin can be translated into instructions to Alphand more useful and cooperative from our viewpoint. Some of deGaulle's December 15 statements to Secretary might be usefully recalled to French in this context.

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